

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUKE  
ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

continuing its proud legacy in the District of  
Columbia.

IN HONOR OF VIOLA DEL GRECO'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2014*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the District of Columbia. The 40th Anniversary Celebration launched with a tribute concert at the Kennedy Center honoring co-founders Peggy Cooper Carfritz and the late Mike Malone. The Duke Ellington School, named in honor of the late great Duke Ellington, a Washington native, is one of the premier performing arts schools in the nation, and ranked the third Best School in the District of Columbia by U.S. News and World Report.

Established in 1974, the Duke Ellington School of the Arts was designed to reflect the "creative soul" of the District as well as the cultural diversity of the United States. Its mission is to both nurture and inspire passion for arts and learning in talented students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to develop their artistic skills. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts is the only high school in the District that combines a full college-preparatory curriculum with professional arts training. Students are provided with training in areas such as dance, theater, literary media, museum studies, and instrumental or vocal music. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts strives to maintain a unique curriculum in which students are well equipped in both the arts and academia.

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts has also produced distinguished alumni, among them mezzo-soprano opera singer Denyce Graves, screenwriter and comedian Dave Chappelle, CNN contributor Michaela Angela Davis, and a host of others who have contributed greatly to the nation's arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and in wishing the school success in

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LAND  
TRANSFER**

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2014*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to transfer land from the United States to Rockingham County, Virginia. The County has long managed this land and associated buildings and has been responsible for all upkeep.

In 1989, the Department of the Interior deeded this land, which it no longer used, to Rockingham County for public good. The County approached then Rep. Jim Olin in the 101st Congress to allow the buildings on this land to be used for the particular use of a non-profit day care that serves the County. This resulted in PL 101-479. However, because of the narrow way this law was drafted, Rockingham County does not have true autonomy over the land and must check-in with the Department of the Interior when any repairs or upgrades of the facilities are needed. Given that the building is used for a child care facility, this added bureaucracy delays and impedes the ability of the day care to move efficiently to make any necessary upgrades.

For over 25 years Rockingham County, Virginia has managed this land as if it belonged to the County. Although this land was already transferred to the county, it was not done effectively. This legislation will finalize the efforts of a previous Congress and fully transfer this land to the county. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2014*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Viola Del Greco upon her 100th birthday.

Yesterday she joined a growing segment of America: the Centenarians. According to the 2010 Census, over 53,000 Americans are 100 years old or older. Their combined contributions to our nation have coincided with the rise of what has been called "The American Century."

Mrs. Del Greco has lived by any measure what can be described as a successful life. Married to her late husband for 72 years, matriarch, business owner and faithful church goer, she has modeled for her family and community how to appropriately balance the demands of life. Faith, family, friends, and neighborhood all require time, energy and attention. Those that give each the proper care can look back and see the handiwork of a lifetime and rejoice in the result. Viola Del Greco must rejoice at what she sees.

As a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she understands the importance of family. The family unit serves as the most fundamental human institution and a basic foundation for our society. The family acts as an incubator in which all the virtues and principles we hold dear are passed on to our children.

Her faithful membership at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church speaks to her core values and strength of character. Her role as business partner with her husband at Del Cleaners bonded them as a team and as part of the community. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have watched her example and honor her life.

Mark Twain was right when he observed, "Only he who has seen better days and lives to see better days again knows their full value."

Mrs. Del Greco understands the value of each day.